WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic commerce system, which comprises:

a plurality of customer facing systems, each of said customer facing systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said customer facing system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing systems to the authoritative data of each of the other customer facing systems.

2. The system as claimed in claim 1, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing systems.

3. The system as claimed in claim 2, including:

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing systems to the read-only data of firm side system.

4. The system as claimed in claim 1, including:

a plurality of street side systems, each of said street side systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said street side system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the authoritative data of each of the other street side systems.

5. The system as claimed in claim 4, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said street side systems.

6. The system as claimed in claim 5, including:

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of said firm side system.

7. The system as claimed in claim 5, including:

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing systems.

8.   An electronic commerce system, which comprises:

a plurality of customer facing systems, each of said customer facing systems including means for processing customer orders and means for processing
5   customer inquiries, and each of said customer facing systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said customer facing system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data records written to
10   said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing systems to the authoritative data of each of the other customer facing systems.

9.   The system as claimed in claim 1, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only
5   data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer facing
~~systems.~~

10.   The system as claimed in claim 9, including:

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing systems to the read-only data of firm side
5   system.

11.   The system as claimed in claim 8, including:

a plurality of street side systems, each of said street side systems including means for executing orders received form a customer facing system, and

5   each of said street side systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said street side system and read-only data; and,

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side

10   systems to the authoritative data of each of the other street side systems.

12.   The system as claimed in claim 11, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only

5   data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side systems to the read-only data of each of said street side systems.

13.   The system as claimed in claim 12, including:

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of said firm side

5   system.

14.   The system as claimed in claim 12, including:

means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the read-only data of each of said customer

5   ~~facing systems.~~

15. The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said means for processing customer orders includes:

means for creating a transaction record for said order; and,

5   means for writing said transaction record to the authoritative data associated with said customer facing system.

16. The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said means for responding to customer inquiries includes:

means for aggregating transaction records in said authoritative data to determine status of a

5   transaction.

17. An electronic commerce system, which comprises:

a plurality of customer facing systems, each of said customer facing systems including means for processing customer orders and means for processing

5 customer inquiries, and each of said customer facing systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said customer facing system and read-only data;

a plurality of street side systems, each of said

10 street side systems including means for executing orders received from a customer facing system, and each of said street side systems having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said street side system and read-only data; and,

15 means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of any one of said street side systems to the authoritative data of each of the other street side systems; and,

means for replicating data records written to

20 said authoritative data of any one of said customer facing systems to the authoritative data of each of the other customer facing systems.

18. The system as claimed in claim 17, including:

a firm side system, said firm side system having associated therewith authoritative data that is writable to by said firm side system and read-only

5   data;

means for replicating data written to said authoritative data of said firm side system to the read-only data of said customer facing system and said street side system;

10   means for replicating data records written to said authoritative data of said customer facing systems to said read-only data of said firm side system; and,

means for replicating data records written to

15   said authoritative data of said street side system to said read-only data of said firm side system.

19. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for processing customer orders includes:

means for creating a transaction record for said order; and,

5   means for writing said transaction record to the authoritative data associated with said customer facing system.

20. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for responding to customer inquires includes:

means for aggregating transaction records in said authoritative data associated with said customer

5   facing system to determine status of a transaction.

21.   A method of processing customer transactions, which comprises the steps of:

    receiving a customer transaction request at one customer facing system of a plurality of customer

5   facing systems;

    creating a record of said transaction;

    writing said transaction record to data storage associated with said one customer facing system;

    and replicating said transaction record to data

10   storage data associated with each of the other customer facing systems of said plurality of customer facing systems.

22.   The method as claimed in claim 21, including the step of:

    sending said transaction request from said one customer facing system to one of a plurality of street

5   side systems;

    executing said transaction request at said one street side system;

    creating a record of said transaction execution;

    writing said transaction execution record to data

10   storage associated with said one street side system; and,

    replicating said transaction execution record to data storage associated with each of said customer facing systems.

23.   The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said transaction request is a buy order.

24. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said transaction request is a sell order.

25. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said transaction request is a cancel order.

26. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said transaction execution includes the step of filling an order.

27. The method as claimed in claim 22, including the steps of:

    receiving a customer transaction inquiry at one of said customer facing systems;

    determining status of a transaction based upon transaction records in the data storage associated with said one customer facing system.